

Green Landscaping

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Green Landscaping: Greenacres

www.epa.gov/greenacres

[Landscaping with native](#) wildflowers and grasses improves the environment. Natural landscaping brings a taste of wilderness to urban, suburban, and corporate settings by attracting a variety of birds, butterflies and other animals. Once established, native plants do not need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or watering, thus benefiting the environment and reducing maintenance costs. Gardeners and admirers enjoy the variety of colors, shapes, and seasonal beauty of these plants.

- [Landscaping with Great Lakes Native Plants](#)



[Native Forest Plants](#)



[Native Prairie Plants](#)



[Native Wetland Plants](#)

Many of the plants found in the area ecosystems can also thrive in your yard, on corporate and university campuses, in parks, golf courses and on road sides. These native plants are attractive and benefit the environment. Many native plant seeds or seedlings are available from nurseries.

How to Get Started

There is a [toolkit](#) to promote the use of native plants. Be sure to read the article on municipal [weed laws](#).

[Sustainable Landscaping. The Hidden Impacts of Gardens](#)

View this power point presentation developed by Danielle Green of the Great Lakes National Program Office and Dan Welker of EPA Region 3. The colorful slides present information on the environmental impacts to air, water, land and biodiversity of traditional landscaping and offer alternatives such as using native plants in the landscape. This presentation was developed as part of the Smithsonian Institution's Horticultural Services Division winter in-service training program. It has also been adapted for presentation at various conferences around the country.



[slideshow](#) (8,620kb)

And you can always [talk to the wizard](#) about commonly asked questions.

Re-Sources

[Resources for Re-seeding](#). Find out about native plant experts and resources for your Great Lakes State. Consult the following sources for information about [native plants and seeds](#). There is a feasibility study about turning abandoned lots into native plant seed gardens written by The Nature Conservancy. And as always, there are [other great WWW sites](#) which will help you down that path landscaped with native plants.



LANDSCAPING RESOURCES

GreenAcres – Green Landscaping with Native Plants www.epa.gov/greenacres
Native Plant lists: www.epa.gov/greenacres/nativeplants/factsht.html
Local official “Toolkit” with case examples. www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/toolkit

Green Infrastructure EPA <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure.cfm>
Green Infrastructure www.greeninfrastructure.net/Benefits
SE Mich – The Value of Nature www.americanforests.org/downloads/rea/AF_Detroit.pdf
& Stormwater <http://greenvalues.cnt.org>
Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/gi_action_strategy.pdf

GreenScapes – Resources - EPA partnership www.epa.gov/greenscapes

Low Impact Development - Center www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
- EPA www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid
www.lid-stormwater.net
- NRDC www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/storm/chap12.asp
Michigan LID Development Manual: www.semcog.org/LowImpactDevelopment.aspx
LID Examples: [Whole Building Design Guide Review](#); [West Michigan](#); [SE Michigan](#)

Landscaping with Native Plants www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones/wo_2004b.pdf
This is by the Wild Ones and probably the place to start on native landscaping.

MSU Integrated pest management www.ipm.msu.edu/land-cat.htm
Ornamental Plant Database www.msue.msu.edu/msue/imp/modzz/masterzz.html
Enhancing Beneficial Insects with Native Plants www.ipm.msu.edu/plants

North American Native Plant Society www.nanps.org

Rain Gardens -
WMEAC fact sheet, brochure and other useful information. www.raingardens.org
University of Wisconsin resources <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs>

USDA National Plant Data Center <http://plants.usda.gov>

Water Efficient Landscaping www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/water-efficient_landscaping_508.pdf

Weed Laws & Native Plants www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/weedlaws

Wildflower Center www.wildflower.org/plants
This database, though in Texas, is for North America and can search by month or color of bloom.

Wild Ones www.for-wild.org
A group dedicated to native plant gardening and preservation.

More Info – MDEQ www.michigan.gov/deqnps under Information & Education

Other Related Resources:

1 – DNR's Wildlife Division Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

The primary focus is on endangered and threatened species but they have worked with groups working to establish native habitats. Contact Dan Kennedy at 517-641-4903 or KennedyD@michigan.gov

2 - County Natural Resources Conservation Districts

They can be found in the phone book under US Government, US Department of Agriculture. This group does a lot with erosion and habitat programs, plant sales and may be of help.

3- Local Governmental Offices

Some local governmental offices in Michigan have an incentive program. There may also be a local green belt or trails effort.

4- Southeast Michigan

a) Trails

In southeast Michigan, the Greenways Initiative <http://greenways.cfsem.org/> helps fund trails.

b) Other Native Plant sources

MNLA - Southeast Michigan chapter

www.semmla.org/

Washtenaw County - Native Plant Resources

<http://washtenawcd.org/you/nativelandscape.php>